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Workplace Safety Bill Passes Oregon Senate

SB 592 will enforce stiffer penalties for Oregon OSHA safety violations, aligns fine structure with federal OSHA standards.

SALEM, Ore - Today, the Oregon Senate passed <u>Senate Bill 592</u>, which will protect Oregon workers by enforcing stiffer penalties for workplace safety violations, especially for employers with willful or repeated violations.

Sponsored by Senator Kathleen Taylor, this legislation will align Oregon OSHA policies with federal OSHA standards. Currently, Oregon's penalties for serious violations are more than <u>73%</u> <u>below</u> the national standard, some of the <u>lowest fines in the nation</u>.

"We need to do everything we can to keep people safe," said <u>Senator Kathleen Taylor (D - Portland)</u>. "Our workforce is Oregon's most valuable asset. This bill protects our people and our economy."

SB 592 will also require Oregon OSHA to conduct comprehensive inspections when a business violates worker safety three or more times in one year or when a work-related fatality occurs.

SB 592 will now move to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration.

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